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study of the origin and, so far as possible, an exposition of the meaning of the names of all the natural features, as lakes, streams, hills, and valleys, and of the political divisions, as counties, towns, and cities of the state. This is a most noteworthy work, the result of a vast amount of diligent, persistent, and painstaking labor. It is one more monument to the indefatigable labors of Dr. Upham. The Minnesota Historical Society is to be congratulated upon the issuance of this work. It is to be wished that every state might have wrought out for it as good and full an account of its place names as this which has been written for Minnesota.

MELVIN RANDOLPH GILMORE

*Vagabond och redaktör: lefnadsöden och tidsbilder.* By ERNST SKARSTEDT. (Seattle, Washington Printing Company, 1914. 410 p. Illustrations.)

*Svensk-amerikanska folket i helg och söcken: strödda blad ur svensk-amerikanernas historia, deras öden och bedrifter, nederlag och segrar, livsintressen och förströelser, jämte biografiska uppgifter om ett antal märkesmän.* By ERNST SKARSTEDT. (Stockholm, Björck and Börjesson, 1917. 450 p. Illustrations.)

The reader of Ernst Skarstedt's *Vagabond och redaktör* would hardly expect to find in the same author's *Svensk-amerikanska folket i helg och söcken* the most comprehensive and in many respects the best balanced and most sympathetic account of the Swedish-Americans yet written. Journalist, musician, carpenter, farmer, book agent, tramp, truckman, photographer, essayist, skeptic, humorist, and philistine, Mr. Skarstedt can scarcely be said to embody the essential qualifications of an historian; but his delightful style, insatiable appetite for reading, wide acquaintance, extensive traveling, and keen understanding of human nature more than make up for his shortcomings. The translator who can do justice to the sparkling pages of these two books, which contribute so much to our knowledge of the emigration, settlement, and progress of the Swedish people in America, will be welcomed.

Chapters of the experiences of the eccentric "vagabond and editor" appeared first in a New York magazine, *Valkyrian*, in the spring of 1899 under the title "A Dog's Life for Eighteen Months." His earlier volume is an autobiography, which begins with his arrival in the United States, January 4, 1879, and ends with the date January 20, 1889, thus constituting a chapter in the history of the Swedish-Americans in the decade of the eighties, when the migration from Sweden was at flood tide. Like thousands of his countrymen the author was dissatisfied with conditions in the old country and determined to cast his lot with the citizens of the exuberant republic in the New World. Arriving at Litchfield, Minnesota, his first job consisted in caring for horses and a cow, sawing wood, and attending to the duties usually incumbent on a hand. Not finding the extreme Minnesota winter to his liking, after a few weeks he left for the pioneer Swedish settlements around Salina, Lindsborg, and Marquette, Kansas, where he found employment as a farmer, carpenter, and journalist. The monotonous Kansas prairies and the provincialism of the puritan Lindsborg colony could not for long satisfy the restless lad of twenty-two, and after about a year he found himself in a box car in company with a half dozen tramps bound for Denver, where he was immediately taken into custody by a special railway police. Here he undertook the strenuous life of a truckman in a freight depot, which was speedily succeeded by more congenial employment in the office of a Swedish newspaper in Chicago. Mr. Skarstedt's residence in this city was interrupted by a trip to Missouri in the interest of his paper and a sojourn in Minnesota, prompted by the failing health of his wife.

In March, 1885, the Skarstedt family moved to Portland, and the last part of the book is concerned with experiences and occupations in the Puget Sound country and a trip to Sweden, in 1885-86. Mr. Skarstedt writes:

Somehow or other, America appeared to us to be far ahead of Sweden in most respects, and for this reason nothing irritated me more than to hear persons who had not the least knowledge of America pronounce hostile judgments about the civilization and state of affairs in that country, pity the emigrants, and belittle and profane the opportunities they enjoyed. . . . And there were many other

things that went against the grain. There was a touchiness on matters of precedence, an overbearingness on the one side and a cringing on the other, an obvious contempt for manual labor, a disposition to put on airs, a superficiality and an emptiness, which was most irritating. In America the idea would be ridiculed that anybody could consider himself too good or too fine or too aristocratic to carry a traveling bag or a package. But there a member of the upper classes could not carry anything or perform manual labor in public.

Naturally, Mr. Skarstedt's reminiscences are concerned mainly with events and incidents in which he played a part; but his pages abound in character sketches of pioneers and descriptions of conditions in communities of which he was a member, and in these his humor and sarcasm are allowed free rein.

In writing his book on the Swedish-Americans Mr. Skarstedt has reaped the results of extensive travel in this country and in Sweden and of the collection of material extending over a long period of time. He has marshalled a formidable amount of information, and has presented it in a fashion very much out of the ordinary. The fact that it was written for readers in Sweden lends additional value to the book. The author has sought to correct the erroneous conception of the problems and achievements of Swedish-Americans prevalent in his native land—a task accomplished without offense to the most sensitive. He argues that the great exodus from Sweden has worked to the benefit of the mother country, the adopted country, and the emigrants. The seriousness of the loss of thousands of enterprising farmers and laborers is balanced by the relief of economic pressure in the homeland and the inflow of millions of dollars sent there by prosperous American farmers and artisans. The citizen of Sweden who revels in the glorious traditions and history of his country may not welcome the assertion that the average Swedish-American does not cherish the attachment to the mother country attributed to the German-American, the Norwegian-American, and the people of certain other nationalities. The memory of his birthplace and friends and relatives left behind lingers, but pride in Swedish citizenship vanishes like the rainbow. The author liberally discounts the sentiments expressed by Swedish-American speakers on occasions when distinguished visitors from

Sweden are honored; he doubts that they voice the sentiments of the multitude. "Sometimes it seems that the most recent Americans are the most patriotic," writes a Swedish-American, "just as the religious convert is the most zealous." The Swedes, according to Mr. Skarstedt, deem it an unusual honor to be counted among the Americans. Their homes are furnished in true American style; with few exceptions their books are English; the pictures which adorn their homes are of American workmanship. When children are asked what part of Sweden claims the parental home of their parents, ninety-nine times out of a hundred the reply is, "I don't know." To find the children of immigrants proficient in the use of Swedish is most rare. Mr. Skarstedt sees no probability of success in any effort to induce immigrants to return to their former homes. Their attachment to America, especially that of the women and children, is too deep-seated; to convince them that in Sweden the doors of opportunity swing open as wide as in America is impossible.

Mr. Skarstedt does not claim to have written a history, but rather a book of reference for those seeking enlightenment on the experiences of immigrants—their interests, ways of thinking, aspirations, and economic circumstances; their estimates of themselves as well as what others have said about them. He has, however, drawn liberally on the works of standard historians like Erik Norelius, Olof N. Nelson, Alfred Söderström, and Ernst W. Olson, as well as on those of Swedish and Swedish-American authors, and on church publications, souvenir albums, statistics, and compilations. His two chapters on the history of Swedish settlements, churches, and educational institutions are compact, full of facts, and well written. He has apportioned an appropriate amount of space to the various religious denominations—Methodists, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Baptists, and Mission Friends—and he has dealt with each in a sympathetic spirit.

No other work approaches the present volume in the comprehensive treatment of the cultural development of the Swedish-Americans. One chapter is given to a discussion of Swedish societies and the part that Swedish-Americans have played in the realm of music. The author's interest in art, journalism, and literature, and his wide acquaintance with prominent men in these fields is revealed in a long chapter, consisting of a general survey

of these subjects and excellent biographical sketches. In compiling a chronological history of Swedish-American newspapers and listing many productions of Swedish-American authors, publications of churches, publication houses, newspapers, business concerns, and other organizations, the author has rendered a service for which scholars may be duly grateful. "Swedish-Americans among Americans" is the rather unusual title of a chapter which sets forth the work of men of Swedish parentage who have attained prominence in fields of endeavor not directly connected with the progress of their own nationality. In some respects the author is at his best in the three last chapters: "Swedish-American Types, Characteristics and Eccentricities," "Pictures and Episodes in Swedish-American Life," and "The So-called Swedish-American Language." The reviewer laments the fact that only those who understand the Swedish language and have heard at first hand the ludicrous combination of Swedish and English so common in pioneer communities can appreciate the mirth-provoking perversion of the mother tongue.

The work of Mr. Skarstedt is of such a high order, the numerous illustrations so excellent, and the general make-up of the book so satisfactory, that one can find little incentive to look for flaws. A good index, a classified bibliography, and greater care in the spelling of proper names would have disarmed the most carping critic.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

*Hamline University in the World War.* By HENRY L. OSBORN, professor of biology and dean of the faculty. (St. Paul, 1920. 64 p.)

In this little book Professor Osborn gives permanent form to an historical record the value of which, both to Hamline University and to the community at large, will become increasingly apparent as the years go by. After paying tribute, in a series of short biographical sketches, to the Hamline men who lost their lives in the service, the author tells the story of Hamline's war services and of the effects of the war upon the life of the institution. Every phase of the subject, such as the training of young men for military service, the women's work of mercy, the institu-